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Crop Varieties Recommended for Iowa

by I. J. Johnson and J. L. Robinson

GROWING THE CROP VARIETIES that are best suited to your local conditions usually means a few more bushels in the bin, a few more tons of hay in the mow at the end of the crop season, better quality. So choosing the right variety is an important production decision—an important part of your crop plans for the coming year.

But the variety picture is a constantly changing one. Several important new varieties have come along in just the last year or two. That's why we thought it was time to get out a new list of the varieties now recommended for different parts of Iowa. Such a list is presented in the box at the right.

For several years now we've been making field trials of different crop varieties in many parts of the state. This gives farmers a chance to compare different varieties under soil and climate conditions fairly similar to their own particular farm.

More detailed information about different crop varieties can be obtained from three published reports—the 1948 Corn Yield Tests, 1948 Community Small Grain Trials, and the 1948 Soybean Varieties. These three reports are all available from your county extension director or by writing directly to the Extension Service at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

The plant breeding programs carried on at Iowa and other state experiment stations have developed improved varieties of nearly every common farm crop. Farmers generally have been quick to recognize the superior performance of these new varieties and have adopted them as rapidly as seed became available.

The variety name alone, however, does not guarantee good performance. There are still wide differences in the quality of seeds. These may be shown in results of germination and purity tests, and by the presence of noxious weed seeds.

Certifying our seed stock is a means of providing high quality seed. Only those varieties that have been tested under Iowa conditions and found to be adapted and dependable can be certified.

The fields where certified seed is produced are kept free from variety mixtures and noxious weeds. Corn must be properly detasseled and isolated from the pollen of other varieties. Such fields are inspected frequently to make sure proper standards are maintained.

Once the seed is harvested, samples of the seed are checked for purity, germination and presence of noxious weeds. Tags showing that the seed is "certified" are issued only after it is certain that the seed is a pure variety and meets the quality standards required.

VARIETIES---Where to Use Them

Crop	Variety and Special Recommendations
Soybeans	Hawkeye, Earlyana and Richland for northern counties. Lincoln and Hawkeye for central counties. Lincoln for southern counties.
Oats	Clinton or Reselect Clinton, Benton, Marion and Bonda for midseason varieties. Mindo for early maturing variety.
Winter Wheat	Pawnee for southern counties. Iohardi and Minter for northern counties.
Barley	Wisconsin 38 and Kindred for malting purposes. Mars for feed purposes.
Flax	Dakota, Koto and Redwing for general use.
Alfalfa	Buffalo for central and southern counties. Grimm and Northern Common for short rotations. Ranger and Ladak for general use.
Red Clover	Emerson, Midland and local strains for general use.
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Broadleaf type, from local or domestic origin.
Sweetclover	Madrid and Late Flowering White (Evergreen)
Lespedeza	Iowa 6
Bromegrass	Fischer, Lincoln and Ach-enbach
Reed Canarygrass	Ioreed
White Clover	Ladino for moist soils, especially in northeastern counties.
Corn	(See 1948 Corn Yield Test, Bulletin P97.)